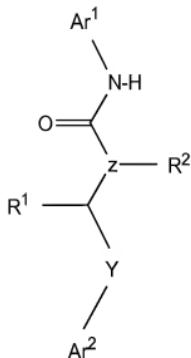


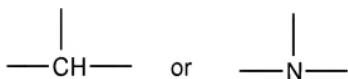
**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

z is selected from



Y is selected from a valence bond or -CH<sub>2</sub>-;

R2 is hydrogen or methyl and R1 is selected from -Q-CO<sub>2</sub>H, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-; or

R1 is hydrogen or methyl and R2 is selected from Q-CO<sub>2</sub>H, Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or selected from the group consisting of straight chains: CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>, S-CH<sub>2</sub>, S-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>, O-CH<sub>2</sub>, O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>, NH-CH<sub>2</sub>, NH-

CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub> or the branch strains: -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -S-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -S0CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -S-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -NH-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -NH-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-;

Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from a 3-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic saturated or unsaturated cycloalkyl, or aryl ring having 0-4 heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulphur, wherein Ar1 and/or Ar2 is optionally and independently substituted by one to four R3 groups and each R3 is independently selected from -R4, -F, -Cl, -Br, -J, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -O-R4, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O-R4 (n=1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8), -S-R4, -N(R4)<sub>2</sub>, -NR4-C-O-R4, -NR4-C-O-N(R4)<sub>2</sub>, -NR4-SO<sub>2</sub>R4, -NR4-SO<sub>2</sub>N(R4)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-CO-R4, or CO-CH<sub>2</sub>-CO-R4; wherein each R4 is independently selected from hydrogen, or from an Cl-6 aliphatic group,

with the exception of 5-(3-chloro-4-methylanilino)-5-oxo-3phenylpentanic acid and 5-(2-fluoro-4-iodoanillino)-5-oxo3-phenylpentanoic acid.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently 3-8 membered monocyclic, or 8-10 membered bicyclic cycloalkyl, or 5-6 membered monocyclic or 8-10 bicyclic aryl ring, or 5-6 membered monocyclic or 8-10 membered bicyclic heteroaryl ring having 1-4 heteroatoms.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, naphtyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl, wherein as an option Ar1 and/or Ar2 is substituted by 1-4 R3 groups.

4. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is -CH<sub>2</sub>-, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO<sub>2</sub>H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

5. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and RI is selected from -Q-CO<sub>2</sub>H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3

alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and RI is selected from -Q-C0<sub>2</sub>H, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, RI is -H, and R2 is selected from -Q-C0<sub>2</sub>H, Q-IH-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of formula (1) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, including a physiologically effective dose of the compound of formula 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) A method for preventing or treating a disease related to an AGC kinase, comprising PDK1 or PKB, having an abnormal high or low activity, wherein a compound

according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9 is administered in a physiologically effective dose to an organism having the risk of obtaining the disease or suffering from the disease.

13. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 2, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, naphtyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl, wherein as an option Ar1 and/or Ar2 is substituted by 1-4 R3 groups.

14. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is  $-\text{CH}_2-$ , R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from  $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ , Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl,  $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$ , wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -0-, -S- or -NH-.

15. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 3, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is  $-\text{CH}_2-$ , R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from  $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ , Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl,  $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$ , wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -0-, -S- or -NH-.

16. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from  $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ , Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl,  $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$ , wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3

alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

17. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 3, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and RI is selected from -Q-CO<sub>2</sub>H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

18. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and RI is selected from -Q-CO<sub>2</sub>H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes, Alzheimer's Disease, Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, AIDS associated dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (AML), multiple sclerosis (MS), schizophrenia, cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, ischemia, and baldness, comprising combining a physiologically effective dose of the compound of formula (1) and a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

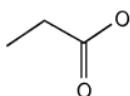
20. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl.

21. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

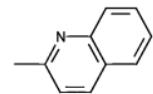
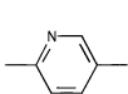
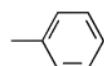
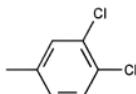
Z is CH;

Y is a valence bond;

R1 and R2 are independently selected from hydrogen or a group

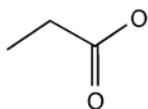


Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from

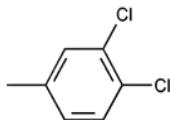


22. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

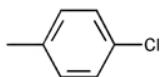
Z is CH, Y is valence bond,  
R1 is hydrogen, R2 is a group



Ar1 is a group

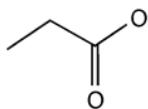


Ar2 is a group

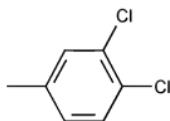


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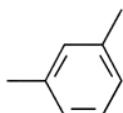
Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,  
R1 is hydrogen, R2 is a group



Ar1 is a group

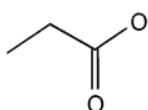


Ar2 is a group

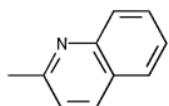


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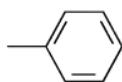
Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,  
R2 is hydrogen, R1 is a group



Ar1 is a group

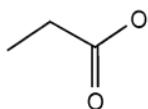


Ar2 is a group

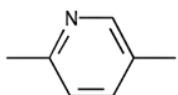


or

Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,  
R2 is hydrogen, R1 is a group



Ar is a group



Ar2 is a group

